

REMARKS

According to the present invention as set forth in amended Claim 14, a transfer MOS switch is supplied with a plurality of pulses for transferring signal charges from a photoelectric conversion unit to a floating diffusion unit which is an input section of an amplifier element. Also, a CMOS type image pickup device is required which transfers a pixel signal through a signal line.

In contrast to these requirements of Claim 14, the cited Kinoshita reference discloses that pulses are supplied to a transfer electrode to perform plural transfer operations, wherein that transfer electrode is for transferring an electric charge to a lower adjacent pixel PC, and this series of pixels is a so-called vertical CCD. By means of the vertical CCD, the pixel signal is transferred to a horizontal scanning section. In this regard, Applicants claimed requirement for “applying a plurality of pulses to the transfer switch to transfer the signal charges generated by said photoelectric conversion unit to said floating diffusion before reading out a signal from the pixel to the signal line” is peculiar to the CMOS type image pickup device as in the present invention. Such a method step cannot be deduced by applying the CCD type image pickup device of the Kinoshita disclosure to the disclosure of the cited Hiyama patent, wherein Hiyama also fails to disclose the claimed requirement of applying a plurality of pulses before reading out a signal from the pixel to the signal line as in Applicants’ Claim 14.

For these various reasons, it is believed that Claims 14, 16, and 17 are patentably distinct over the combined disclosures of the cited Hiyama and Kinoshita patents, wherefore a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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